

PAGES _____

DATE _____

Box _____

Folder # _____

Fon # _____

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

President Sets Joint Review Of U.S. Disarmament Policy

By William H. Stringer

Chief of the Washington News Service
The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

President Eisenhower is gear-
ing up his disarmament un-
derstanding, hoping to have new
evaluations and new approaches
ready for tryout—either in talks
with the Soviets or in discus-
sions through the United Na-
tions; in fact, whenever oppor-
tunity occurs.

President Eisenhower's most
cherished objective in these
final months of office, is to make
some progress with the Soviet
Union in reducing what he calls
the "plateau of tension" between
the two countries—the cold war
—and cutting down the heavy
burden of armaments.

Hence the President has ap-
pointed Charles A. Coolidge, a

Detroit lawyer, to head a joint
review of disarmament policy
on behalf of the Departments of
State and Defense. Mr. Coolidge
will be assisted by a staff of
selected experts from the two de-
partments and other appropriate
agencies, including the Atomic
Energy Commission.

The review will cover the
whole range of past and present
disarmament proposals, ranging
from partial to full disarmament,
and including methods of poli-
cymaking and inspection.

The appointment of Mr. Cool-
idge represents an attempt to
bring a new "Secretary of Dis-
armament"—the role filled by
Harold E. Stassen two years
ago. The administration's chief
negotiator on arms control is
still James R. Wadsworth, Jr.,
who is chairman of the United

States delegation now negoti-
ating with the Soviets and the
United States' European Allies
at Geneva.

Mr. Coolidge will not be ex-
pected to advise on day-to-day
strategy or problems in the
Geneva talks, which are now
concerned with developing an
agreed path on nuclear testing.
Nor would he be a daily adviser
in any new talks which might
be initiated with the Soviet
Union.

Vast Survey Stated

His task rather will be to sur-
vey the whole scene, evaluate
the problems, and come up with
ideas and recommendations
which he will communicate to
the President and Secretary of
State. These recommendations
can be the source of new initia-
tive by the United States, either
through a rejuvenated disarmament
commission at the United
Nations or, conceivably, in di-
rect talks at the summit with
Soviet Premier Nikita S.
Khrushchev.

The President is deeply con-
cerned with the burden of
armaments. He is also aware
that there are heavy burdens
within the Soviet Union which
might induce the Kremlin to
reach an arms control agree-
ment.

Moscow must pay attention to
its own public opinion, in a de-
gree, and there is obviously a
growing desire among the So-
viet people for consumer goods
and higher living standards—
which cannot be had in great
quantities when the burden of
armaments weighs heavily on
the Soviet budget.

Stassen Hampered

President Eisenhower has re-
cently told acquaintances that
he thought it was possible—
though perhaps not probable—
that progress can be made in re-
ducing the "plateau of tension."
At any rate, he seems to feel
it is worth another try.

Much, of course, will depend

on whether or not a really
unified American policy can be
agreed upon. Disarmament ne-
gotiator Stassen was considerably
hampered in his London talks
with Soviet delegates by re-
sistance on the part of the At-
torney General and the Atomic Energy
Commission to make any com-
mitment, for instance, to a spe-
cific disarmament package which
Washington had espoused, and
consider its contents. Mr. Stassen's efforts were
crippled at from Washington.

Significantly, the President
has placed Mr. Coolidge in

Charles A. Coolidge

Detroit lawyer to head sur-
vey of United States dis-
armament policy as President
Eisenhower seeks to reduce
"plateau of tension" in world.

charge of a "joint" review
which will attempt to lead the
State and Defense Departments
toward some meeting of minds.

The President has frequently
emphasized, in speeches and
press conferences, how the na-
tions of the world could pro-
gress much faster—in raising
living standards, routing pesti-
lence, and assisting underdevel-
oped countries—if the terrible
burden of armaments were
lifted.

Now he notes that Soviet Pre-
mier Khrushchev is talking
about industrial expansion and
the raising of Soviet living
standards. Perhaps this Soviet
emphasis will make the Krem-
lin more amenable to realistic
arms control.

Or perhaps not; the President
regards the man who makes all
the top decisions, Mr. Khrush-
chev, as a shrewd individual
though not always a wise one,
and a man of rather impulsive
and erratic behavior. On the
other hand, Mr. Khrushchev is
not, in the President's view,
reckless or irresponsible.

One thing is certain: At any
meeting between Messrs. Eisen-
hower and Khrushchev, the
President will most certainly
stress emphatically the world's



COPYRIGHT